



# Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Polygon 009



July 2013

## **WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY**

### **APPENDIX B – INVENTORY AREA EVALUATION**

#### **Evaluation of Current Conditions:**

1) Document and review any existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory findings on file regarding the presence or absence of individual wilderness characteristics, using Form 1, below.

2) Consider relevant information regarding current conditions available in the office. Identify and describe any changes to the existing inventory information. Use interdisciplinary team knowledge, aerial photographs, field observations, maps, etc. and document the findings on Form 2, below. Document current conditions regarding wilderness characteristics, as opposed to potential future conditions.

Conduct field reviews as necessary to verify information and to ascertain current conditions. Reach conclusions on current conditions including boundaries, size of areas and presence or absence of wilderness characteristics. Fully explain the basis for each conclusion on Form 2, including any critical differences between BLM and citizen information.

Document the findings regarding current conditions for each inventoried area. Describe how the present conditions are similar to, or have changed from, the conditions documented in the original wilderness characteristics inventory. Document the findings on Form 2 for each inventory area. Cite to or attach data considered, including photographs, maps, GIS layers, field trip notes, project files, etc.

## **FORM 1**

### **Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?**

**No**    ☒    (Go to Form 2) **Yes**    (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas.):

**a) Inventory Source:**

**b) Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):**

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):**

**d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):**

**2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:**

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source:

<b>Area Unique Identifier</b>	<b>Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)</b>	<b>Naturalness? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Yes/No</b>

## **FORM 2**

### **Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

Area Unique Identifier: **CO-010-009**

Acreage

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate each separately).

In completing steps (1)-(5), use additional space as necessary.

(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),

Yes    **X**                      No

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area--wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

**LWC Polygon 9 is bordered on the west by Moffat County Road 10, a bladed and graveled road that travels southwest towards CR 12. The border of the unit will be the power line that transects the unit in the northwest corner and then parallels CR 10. The southern boundary is formed by private land surrounding the unit. Private land continues forming the boundary as it turns northwestward nearly paralleling Colorado State Highway 318. From the intersection with BLM 2040, CO 318 forms the northern boundary. There are two instances where CO 318 passes through private and state land and the boundary is formed by these property lines. Within the polygon, exist two sections of private land. These will be excluded from the boundary of the unit.**

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes    **X**                      No                      N/A

Note: If "No" is checked the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

**While the unit is wholly owned by the BLM, it is bordered by both private and state land in multiple instances. The unit is located west of Maybell, CO just south of CO 318. It is**

**comprised of rolling hills of sage brush and junipers and features a large, steep draw as its most distinctive feature. Multiple freshwater springs exist within the unit as well. The unit is mostly free of human influence, however evidence of grazing and range improvements was observed.**

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes    **X**       No            N/A

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

**Thanks to variable terrain and an expansive landscape, visitors would have minimal chances of encountering one another. No one was observed in the polygon while it was inventoried. It is likely that the area receives few visitors, so opportunities for solitude are excellent.**

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes    **X**    No    N/A

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4 the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

**The area provides seasonal habitat for elk, deer and pronghorns suggesting excellent hunting opportunities. Combined with the surrounding area, stunning views are abundant. By hiking or horseback riding into the area, visitors can take full advantage of the unit's visual resources.**

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes    No    N/A    **X**

Description:

**It is unknown whether or not supplemental values exist in the area.**

## Summary of Analysis\*

### Area Unique Identifier:

#### Summary

Results of analysis:

(Note: explain the inventory findings for the entirety of the inventory unit. When wilderness characteristics have been identified in an area that is smaller than the size of the total inventory unit, explain why certain portions of the inventory unit are not included within the lands with wilderness characteristics (e.g. the inventory found that certain parts lacked naturalness).

- |                                                                                                                 |     |                                     |    |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?                                                             | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |                                         |
| 2. Does the area appear to be natural?                                                                          | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | N/A                                     |
| 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | N/A                                     |
| 4. Does the area have supplemental values?                                                                      | Yes |                                     | No | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Check one:

☒ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

☐ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

### Prepared by (team members):

**Ty Skoe, Recreation Intern**

**Date: 6/27/13**

**Cody Niehus, Recreation Intern**

**Date: 6/27/13**

(Name, Title, Date)

### Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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\* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

# WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

## APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS<sup>1</sup>

*(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road<sup>2</sup> for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)*

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CO-010-009**

Route or Route Segment<sup>3</sup> Name and/or Identifier: **LWC\_9\_Route 1**

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

**I. LOCATION:** Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe:

**Route 1 travels northwest and forms the northern boundary of the polygon. It is CO 318.**

## II. ROUTE CONTEXT

A. Current Purpose<sup>4</sup> (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine

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<sup>1</sup> This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

<sup>2</sup> Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

<sup>3</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherry system road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

<sup>4</sup> The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.



Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

**The route is a major state highway used for many transportation purposes.**

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes    No    Unknown    **X**

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes    No    Unknown or N/A    **X**

Explain:

**III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA**

A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes    **X** (if either A.1 *or* A.2 is checked "yes" below) No    (if both A.1 *and* A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes    **X**    No

Examples: Paved    **X**    Bladed    Graveled    Roadside Berms    Cut/Fill    Other

Describe:

**The road is paved.**

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes ☒ No      If “yes”: by Hand Tools      by Machine

Examples: Culverts ☒ Hardened Stream Crossings      Bridges      Drainage      Barriers      Other

Describe:

**The road is very improved and features pavement, culverts and many drainage improvements.**

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?): Yes      (if either B.1 *or* B.2 is checked “yes” below) No      (if both B.1 *and* B.2 are checked “no” below)

1. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?  
Yes ☒ No      If “yes”: by Hand Tools      by Machine

Explain:

**The road is paved and in good condition, suggesting heavy maintenance.**

2. If the route or route segment is in good<sup>5</sup> condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?  
Yes ☒ No

Explain

**The route is in good condition and needs no maintenance.**

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?) Yes ☒ No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

<sup>6</sup> Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

#### IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment<sup>7</sup> meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A *and* III.B *and* III.C all checked yes)?

Yes **X** = Wilderness Inventory Road  
inventory purposes

No = Not a road for wilderness

Explanation<sup>8</sup>:

**The route meets the necessary criteria for designation as a Wilderness Inventory Road.**

Evaluator(s): **Ty Skoe, Recreation Intern**

Date: **6/27/13**

Evaluator(s): **Cody Niehus, Recreation Intern**

Date: **6/27/13**

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<sup>7</sup> If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

<sup>8</sup> Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

## WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

### APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS<sup>9</sup>

*(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road<sup>10</sup> for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)*

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area Unique Identifier: **CO-010-009**

Route or Route Segment<sup>11</sup> Name and/or Identifier: **LWC\_9\_Route 2**

(Include Transportation Plan Identifier, if known, and include route number supplied by citizen information, when available.)

**III. LOCATION:** Refer to attached map and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log:

Describe:

**Route 2 travels south from CO 318 then turns southwest after its junction with Moffat County Road 138. It travels into private land, then back into BLM before leaving the unit. It is CR 10. GIS points associated are 9-01, 9-02, and 9-03.**

#### **IV. ROUTE CONTEXT**

A. Current Purpose<sup>12</sup> (if any) of Route: (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine

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<sup>9</sup> This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

<sup>10</sup> Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

<sup>11</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe:

**The route provides access to private land.**

B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

4. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes    No    Unknown    **X**

5. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

6. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes    No    Unknown or N/A    **X**

Explain:

### III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

B. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes    **X**    (if either A.1 *or* A.2 is checked “yes” below)    No    (if both A.1 *and* A.2 are checked “no” below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?)    Yes    **X**    No

Examples: Paved    Bladed    Graveled **X**    Roadside Berms    Cut/Fill    Other

Describe: **The route was both graveled and bladed. A road grader was observed working on the route.**

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<sup>12</sup> The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes ☒ No      If “yes”: by Hand Tools      by Machine ☒

Examples: Culverts ☒ Hardened Stream Crossings      Bridges      Drainage ☒ Barriers  
Other

Describe:

**The route crossed over a culvert and drainage channels were constructed where necessary.**

B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?): Yes ☒ (if either B.1 *or* B.2 is checked “yes” below) No      (if both B.1 *and* B.2 are checked “no” below)

3. Is there Evidence or Documentation of Maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes ☒ No      If “yes”: by Hand Tools      by Machine ☒

Explain:

**A road grader was observed working on the route.**

4. If the route or route segment is in good<sup>13</sup> condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes ☒ No

Explain

**The route receives heavy use and is well maintained already. BLM would have no reason to not approve maintenance.**

C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?) Yes ☒ No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular

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<sup>13</sup> Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route).<sup>14</sup>

**Multiple large trucks were observed driving the route. The route is maintained for regular use.**

#### IV. CONCLUSION:

Does the route or route segment<sup>15</sup> meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A *and* III.B *and* III.C all checked yes)?

Yes **X** = Wilderness Inventory Road  
inventory purposes

No = Not a road for wilderness

Explanation<sup>16</sup>:

**The route meets the necessary criteria for designation as a WIR.**

Evaluator(s): **Ty Skoe, Recreation Intern**

Date: **6/27/13**

Evaluator(s): **Cody Niehus, Recreation Intern**

Date: **6/27/13**

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<sup>14</sup> Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

<sup>15</sup> If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

<sup>16</sup> Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

9-01



9-03



9-02



Scenic

